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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An implantable tissue-stimulating device comprising:
 - a resiliently flexible elongate member having a proximal end, a distal end, and having at least one electrode mounted thereon;
 - a lumen extending through at least a portion of the said elongate member from an orifice positioned at or relatively closer to the said proximal end than the said distal end, the said lumen being able to receive a stiffening element through the said orifice; and
 - a seal that is pierceable by the said stiffening element, said seal but which at least substantially seals sealing the said lumen following removal of the said stiffening element therefrom.
2. (Currently Amended) The An implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 1, wherein comprising:
 - a resiliently flexible elongate member having a proximal end, a distal end, and having at least one electrode mounted thereon;
 - a lumen extending through at least a portion of the elongate member from an orifice positioned at or relatively closer to the proximal end than the distal end;
 - asaid stiffening element extending through at least a portion of the said lumen and out through the said orifice; and
 - a seal that at least substantially seals the lumen following removal of the stiffening element therefrom.
3. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein a slit is formed in the said seal.
4. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the said seal is formed of a silicone polymer.

5. (Original) A method of manufacturing an implantable tissue-stimulating device, the device comprising a resiliently flexible elongate member having a proximal end, a distal end and at least one electrode mounted thereon, and a lumen extending through at least a portion of the elongate member from an orifice positioned at or relatively closer to the proximal end than the distal end, the method comprising the steps of:

- (i) sealing the lumen of the elongate member with a pierceable seal; and
- (ii) piercing the seal with a tip of a stiffening element and sliding the stiffening element relatively into the lumen of the elongate member.

6. (Currently Amended) The A—method of manufacturing an implantable tissue-stimulating device if claim 5, futher comprising the step of: the device comprising a resiliently flexible elongate member having a proximal end, a distal end and at least one electrode mounted thereon, and a lumen extending through at least a portion of the elongate member from an orifice positioned at or relatively closer to the proximal end than the distal end, the method comprising the steps of:

- (i)—positioning a stiffening element within a lumen of an elongate member, the stiffening element extending from within the lumen back out through an orifice of the lumen; and,
- (ii)—sealing the orifice of the lumen of the elongate member with a seal.

7. (Original) A method of placing an implantable tissue-stimulating device in a body of an implantee, the device comprising a resiliently flexible elongate member having a proximal end, a distal end and at least one electrode mounted thereon, a lumen extending through at least a portion of the elongate member from an orifice positioned at or relatively closer to the proximal end than the distal end, and a seal that at least substantially seals the lumen, the method comprising the steps of:

- (i) inserting the elongate member into a desired location in the body of the implantee;
- (ii) during and/or after insertion of the elongate member, at least partially relatively withdrawing the stiffening element from the lumen through the seal; and
- (iii) allowing the seal to at least substantially seal the lumen of the elongate member.

8. (Currently Amended) The An—implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 1, further comprising:

— a resiliently flexible elongate member having a proximal end, a distal end, and having at least one electrode mounted thereon;

~~— a lumen extending through at least a portion of the elongate member from an orifice positioned at or relatively closer to the proximal end than the distal end, the lumen being able to receive a stiffening element through the orifice; and~~

~~a plug member that is positionable within and seals the said orifice of the said lumen following withdrawal of the said stiffening element therefrom.~~

9. (Cancelled) ~~A plug member that is positionable within an orifice of a lumen of an elongate member of an implantable tissue-stimulating device.~~

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The implantable tissue-stimulating device of plug member of claim 9-8 wherein the said elongate member is resiliently flexible and has a second proximal end, a second distal end, and at least one electrode mounted thereon, the said lumen extending through at least a portion of the said elongate member from the said orifice that is positioned at or relatively closer to the said second proximal end than the said second distal end.~~

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method of placing an implantable tissue-stimulating device in the body of an implantee of claim 7, the device comprising a resiliently flexible elongate member having a proximal end, a distal end and at least one electrode mounted thereon, and a lumen extending through at least a portion of the elongate member from an orifice positioned at or relatively closer to the proximal end than the distal end, the method further comprising the steps of:

- ~~(i) inserting the elongate member into a desired location in the body of the implantee;~~
- ~~(ii) during and/or after insertion of the elongate member, relatively withdrawing a stiffening element from the lumen through the orifice in the member; and~~
- ~~(iii) inserting a plug into the orifice to at least substantially seal the lumen of the elongate member.~~

12. (Currently Amended) An implantable tissue-stimulating device comprising:

~~a resiliently flexible elongate member having a proximal end, a distal end, and having at least one electrode mounted thereon;~~

~~a lumen extending through at least a portion of the said elongate member from an orifice positioned at or relatively closer to the said proximal end than the said distal end;~~

~~a stiffening element positioned at least partially within the said lumen and extending out of the said lumen through said orifice; and~~

~~a sealing member mountable to the said stiffening element;~~

wherein ~~the~~ said stiffening element is movable relative to ~~the~~ said orifice of ~~the~~ said lumen between a first position in which ~~the~~ said sealing member mountable thereon does not seal ~~the~~ said lumen and a second position in which ~~the~~ said sealing member ~~at least~~ substantially seals ~~the~~ said lumen.

13. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 12 wherein ~~the~~ said sealing member comprises a sealing portion of a resiliently flexible material mounted to ~~the~~ said stiffening element.

14. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 12 wherein ~~the~~ said sealing member has a shape that substantially matches the shape of a narrowing of the lumen at or adjacent ~~the~~ said orifice thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 12 wherein ~~the~~ said sealing member comprises a substantially spherical shape or spherical member mounted at or relatively near ~~the~~ said distal end of ~~the~~ said stiffening member.

16. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 15 wherein a portion of ~~the~~ said lumen adjacent ~~the~~ said orifice thereof has a spherical region to receive ~~the~~ said spherical member when ~~the~~ said spherical member is in ~~the~~ a second position.

17. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 16 wherein ~~the~~ said spherical region has a diameter less than that of ~~the~~ said spherical member.

18. (Cancelled) ~~A stiffening element that is positionable through an orifice and into a lumen of an elongate member of a tissue stimulating device, the stiffening element comprising:~~

~~— a stiffening member; and~~

~~— a sealing member mountable to the stiffening member;~~

~~wherein the stiffening element is movable relative to the orifice of the lumen between a first position in which the sealing member mountable thereon does not seal the lumen and a second position in which the sealing member at least substantially seals the lumen.~~

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method of placing an implantable tissue-stimulating device in the body of an implantee of claim, ~~the device comprising a resiliently flexible elongate member having a proximal end, a distal end and at least one electrode mounted~~

~~thereon, a lumen extending through at least a portion of the elongate member from an orifice positioned at or relatively closer to the proximal end than the distal end, and a stiffening element positionable at least partially within the lumen and extending from the lumen through the orifice, the method further comprising the steps of :~~

- ~~(i) inserting the elongate member into a desired location in the body of the implantee;~~
- ~~(ii) during and/or after insertion, at least partially relatively withdrawing the stiffening element from the lumen through the orifice; and~~
- ~~(iii) bringing a sealing member that is mountable to the stiffening element into a position in which the sealing member at least substantially seals the lumen.~~

20. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 12, further comprising:

- ~~a resiliently flexible elongate member having a proximal end, a distal end, and having at least one electrode mounted thereon;~~
- ~~a lumen extending through at least a portion of the elongate member from an orifice positioned at or relatively closer to the proximal end than the distal end; and~~
- ~~a compression member mountable around at least a portion of the said elongate member;~~

wherein the said compression member is adjustable between a first configuration in which the said compression member does not compress a portion of the said lumen and a second configuration in which the said compression member does compress at least a portion of the said lumen.

21. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 20 wherein the said lumen is able to receive a said stiffening element through the said orifice thereof.

22. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 20 wherein the a position of the said compression member around the said elongate member is relatively adjustable.

23. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 20-22 wherein the said position of said compression member is only adjustable once from the a first configuration to the a second configuration.

24. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 20 wherein the said compression member is a clip that is mountable around the said elongate member,

wherein on closing and latching of ~~the~~ said clip, at least a portion of ~~the~~ said lumen is compressed sufficiently to at least substantially seal ~~the~~ said lumen.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The implantable tissue-stimulating device comprising of claim 1,:

~~— a resiliently flexible elongate member having a proximal end, a distal end, and having at least one electrode mounted thereon; and~~

~~— a lumen extending through at least a portion of the elongate member from an orifice positioned at or relatively closer to the proximal end than the distal end, said lumen being able to receive a stiffening element through the orifice;~~

wherein ~~the~~ said lumen has ~~at least one~~ first portion ~~of~~ having a first diameter and at least one second portion having a second diameter less than that of said ~~at least one~~ first portion~~first~~ diameter; and

wherein said second portion is relatively closer to ~~the~~ said orifice of ~~the~~ said lumen than ~~at least one of~~ said lumen portions.

26. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 25 wherein ~~the~~ said second portion is spaced from ~~the~~ said orifice of ~~the~~ said lumen by at least one first portion.

27. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 25 wherein ~~the~~ said second portion is compressible by a compression member that is mountable around ~~the~~ said elongate member, wherein ~~the~~ said compression member is adjustable between a first configuration in which ~~the~~ said compression member does not compress ~~the~~ said second portion of ~~the~~ said lumen and a second configuration in which ~~the~~ said compression member does compress said second portion of said lumen.

28. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 25 wherein a quantity of adhesive is insertable through ~~the~~ said orifice of ~~the~~ said lumen, said adhesive ~~on subsequent curing sealing the~~ said lumen upon curing.

29. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 25 wherein at least ~~the~~ said second portion of ~~the~~ said lumen is coated with a material that swells on contact with ~~at least certain~~ a fluids.

30. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 1, comprising:

— a ~~resiliently flexible elongate member having a proximal end, a distal end, and having at least one electrode mounted thereon; and~~
— a ~~lumen extending through at least a portion of the elongate member from an orifice positioned at or relatively closer to the proximal end than the distal end, said lumen being able to receive a stiffening element through the orifice;~~
— wherein at least a portion of ~~the~~ said lumen is coated with a layer of material that swells following exposure to bodily fluids.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The implantable tissue-stimulating device ~~comprising of~~ comprising ~~claim 1,~~

— a ~~resiliently flexible elongate member having a proximal end, a distal end, and having at least one electrode mounted thereon; and~~
— a ~~lumen extending into and along at least a portion of the elongate member from an orifice positioned at or relatively closer to the proximal end than the distal end, said lumen being able to receive a stiffening element through the orifice;~~
wherein ~~the~~ said lumen in ~~the~~ a region adjacent ~~the~~ said orifice decreases in diameter away from ~~the~~ said orifice into ~~the~~ said elongate member for a length.

32. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 31 wherein said region of ~~the~~ said lumen is frusto-conical in form.

33. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 31 wherein said region is packable with fibrous tissue following withdrawal of ~~the~~ said stiffening element.